

Fox Valley Flyer

Fox Valley Chapter #265
Order of the Eastern Star of Illinois

March 2025 – August 2025

Helen Milam, Worthy Matron 815-838-3214
& Luke Schulz, Worthy Patron

Goodbye Spring! In the blink of an eye, here we are in the midst of the hot and humid Summer! There are things to do, places to go and people to see and the rush is on to get everything done before the chill of fall comes followed by cold weather. Here at Fox Valley, we are continuing to do what we can to support not only our Order but to support each other. Brother Adam Schulz recently received his Board Certification as an Applied Behavior Analyst and secured a position with the local school district. Brother Luke Schulz has been promoted to managing his own store. Sister Pamela Trinco is keeping busy in real estate and even helped Brothers Jake and Zack Schulz purchase their first home. It is great to catch up with members at Chapter on what it happening in their lives.

The Official Visit scheduled for June 24th was canceled due to safety concerns and limited parking. The City of Batavia has a new housing project going up right across the street from the Lodge, which required road reconstruction. Van Nortwick Ave has been closed for a couple months. Our thanks to Brother Jim Boyic, who by chance got last minute notice and informed us about the street closure. Instead of our Official Visit, we enjoyed ice cream at a nearby Steak'n Shake! Our plans for an Indoor Picnic/Potluck were also changed to having Pizza at a local pizzeria, due to damage to the Lodge's air conditioning, during a microburst storm. We have had to make other changes to the calendar to accommodate these little bumps in the road. Thanks to members for their quick thinking and flexibility. The road



Lorri Schulz, Secretary 630-659-8814

construction should wrap up shortly.

If you are interested in learning more about activities and events scheduled for the 2025 year, check out the OES Fox Valley Chapter or the Grand Chapter Calendars on our website: foxvalleyoes.org. Some activities on the calendar are the rescheduled Official Visit, the "No Beans Chili Cook-Off Fun Night," an Exchange/Friends Nite with Yorkville Chapter and Halloween at Fox Valley. In November, we will again have our Chinese Take-Out Dinner before our Annual Meeting. Pick a night and come and join us. We would love to see you!

Special Note: New rules regarding membership have passed and a woman no longer needs a Masonic link to become a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Reach out to learn more.

Star Love to all!

Helen Milam, Worthy Matron

Calendar

Meetings start at 7:30. Family & Friends are welcome on Fun Nights, which are most 4th Tuesdays.

Aug 26	Advance Night
Sep 9	Stated Meeting
Sep 23	Official Visit & Reception
Oct 14	Stated Meeting
Oct 28	Game Night
Nov 11	Annual Meeting with 6:30 Dinner prior
Nov 25	Chili Cook Off
Dec 9	Installation of Officers

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

A motion was made at the May 13th 2025 meeting regarding the reinvestment of the remaining Green State Credit Union CDs that mature during this Chapter year. The motion is to reinvest each CD into a new CD at the best rates available, for a period of 12 to 24 months, moving small amounts into the Chase checking account as needed to cover expenses.

Discussion and voting will take place at the Stated Meeting on September 9th, 2025.

Advance Night

Sister Carrie Becker, Associate Matron has an Advance Night scheduled for August 26th, 2025. The theme will be Golden Girls. Join us!

Official Visit & Grand Reception

The Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Pam Brandenburg, and Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Gene Ferguson are making their Official Visit to Fox Valley on September 23rd, 2025. This is also the Reception for Brother Ed Milam, Grand Representative of Georgia in Illinois. It will be a great time to see good friends.

Exchange Night

We had Exchange Nights planned with Yorkville Chapter for the end of October but we have been unable to get confirmation that they are still going to happen. So, we have removed them from the calendar and will likely have a gave night for October 28th instead.

Chili Cook Off

Is your special chili recipe the best? Let's find out. Join in on the Chili Cook off planned for November 25th. Bring your entry, enough to feed several people for judging, and be prepared to try other entries. It should be a lot of fun!

Installation of Officers

Our Installation of Officers is scheduled for the December 9th, 2025. IF you are interested in filling a station this year, our new Worthy Matron would love to hear from you. Taking a station does not require someone to be at all of our meetings, in fact, if you could only attend our Installation and Official Visit, we would be happy to have you there. Reach out to your Worthy Matron elect, Sister Carrie Becker, at 815-245-4861.

New Member

We are so pleased to announce that we have a new member! Sister Jo McCooley was initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star as a member of Fox Valley Chapter on July 29th, 2025. She is the first of many new members that we hope to have now that the Masonic familial relationship requirement has been lifted. Who would you enjoy bringing to Chapter? Let's get them a petition! For more details on the updated membership requirements, reach out to our Chapter Instructress, Sister Carol Becker, at 815-245-4857. We have high hopes that this will give the Order new life and opportunities for growth.

In Memoriums

Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near.
Still loved, still missed and forever dear.



Brother Lindsay Cleveland, 82, passed away February 3, 2022. He was an active and dedicated member to his Choral Groups, Masonic Lodges, York Rite, Scottish Rite and the Order of the Eastern Star.

Brother Lindsay was initiated into Wheaton Chapter #506, Order of the Eastern Star, on November 6, 1980. Wheaton Chapter merged into Fox Valley Chapter #265, in Batavia, in April of 2010. He was a member of Fox Valley Chapter at the time of his death. He was a faithful and valued member of the Order of the Eastern Star for over 41 years.

Sister Jill Atkinson, age 70, of DelRay Beach, Florida, formerly of Elgin, Illinois passed away on September 19, 2023. She had a giving spirit and was a member of the Moose and the Order of the Eastern Star.

Sister Jill was initiated into Fox Valley Chapter #265, Order of the Eastern Star, in Batavia, Illinois, on May 26,

2009. She was a valued member of the Order for over 14 years, at the time of her passing.

Brother John Horn, age 77, passed away February 22, 2025. Brother John truly valued family, education, hard work, brotherhood, and community. He was a member of the Masonic Fraternity for over 50 years and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Brother John was initiated into Rising Sun Chapter #51, Order of the Eastern Star, on February 14, 1974. In January of 1989, Rising Sun Chapter merged into Fox Valley Chapter #265, in Batavia, and he took a break in membership. On September 23, 2014, Brother John returned to the Order as a member of Fox Valley Chapter, where he remained a member until the time of his passing. He was a valued member of the Order for 30 years.

Sister Anna May Patch, 95, passed away on June 22, 2025, at DuPage Care Center in Wheaton Illinois. She was a local girl all her life, a caregiver to many and truly loved the Order of the Eastern Star and the many friends she made there.

Sister Anna May was initiated into Glenn Ellyn Chapter #794, Order of the Eastern Star, on April 12, 1949. She was an active member and served her Chapter as Ruth many times. Glen Ellyn Chapter merged into Wheaton Chapter #506, in July of 1980. In April 2010, Wheaton Chapter merged into Fox Valley Chapter #265, in Batavia, where Sister Anna May remained a member. She valued member of the Order for over 76 years, at the time of her passing.

Please ensure that your family members notify us of your passing and whether or not you desire an Eastern Star funeral service. When we learn of the loss of members long after the fact, we do not have the opportunity to pay our respects and offer a service. It would be an honor to perform a funeral service for members that have services locally.

Sickness and Distress

Brother Ed Milam suffered from another bout of covid in April, but is back to 100% now.

Sister Pamela Trinco's husband was down and out with a cold, in June, which took a toll on them both. They are also both back to 100%. Her daughter, Trisha, is in the final phases with the last surgery to repair her skull from previous surgeries. Fantastic news!

Sister Maddie Upham's husband is still suffering with ongoing health issues and is recovering from his surgery.

Sister Margery Schrubbe is in rehab at the DuPage Medical Care Center. Please keep her in your prayers as with all our members struggling with health concerns and other issues of distress.

Please let us know how you are doing and ask your family members notify us of changes in your health, if you are not able.

Need a Ride to a Meeting?

If you are interested in attending a meeting from time to time but do not have transportation. Give the Chapter Secretary a call. We very well could have someone in your area that you can ride along with on occasion.

Thanks for Donations

Thank you to the following members for their donations to Fox Valley for Chapter expenses or to Grand Chapter funds. Small or large, we want to let you know that your contribution is truly appreciated.

*Nicole de la Cruz
Margaret Braddock
Kathy Ciccolella
Denise Lacure*

Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry

We are continuing to collect non-perishable food items and toiletries for the Batavia Food Pantry. For those that may not be aware, the pantry also operates the Clothes Closet, which accepts new and gently used clothing and small appliances. Our donation collection box is in the lobby, outside our Chapter room. Come out and visit and bring a little something to drop in the box.

Fundraising

If you like to plan ahead, we will start our Brittle and Jam fundraiser mid' October. At that time, you can call Pamela Trinco 630-217-9450 or place your orders at JamNBrittle@gmail.com.

We are always looking for new ideas for fundraising and/or growing our membership. If you have any thoughts or ideas, give your Worthy Matron a call. Something that would get you to attend, has a good chance of being something that others would like to do too. We can use the 4th Tuesday of the month for a fundraising event. Right now, these fun nights are a great way to introduce someone to the membership.